

ASSERTED THE „WORLD*S ETERNI^F*

into it, causing it to overflow, length of time a passage opened by the ProfftMjtis, • and Hellespont; as also that the Mediterranean, sea forced open that passage of the Herculean straits, being a continual isthmus or neck of land before; that many parts of the present continent were heretofore sea, as also much of the present ocean habitable land :—so it cannot be doubted, but that the same Strato did likewise suppose such kind of alterations and vicissitudes as these* in all the greater parts of the mundane system.

But the Stoical Atheists, who made the whole world to be dispensed by one orderly and plastic nature, might very well, and agreeably to their own hypothesis, maintain, besides the world's eterni^ o\$e constant and invariable course or tenpr *gf things in it, as Plinius Secundus doth, who, i/ ^p were any thing, seems to have been one of these Atheists; « Mundum et hoc f^af^Hl^L* quod nomine alio coelum appellare li-buit, (cujus circumflexu reguntur cuncta) Numen esse, credi par est, seternum, immensunx, neque genitum, («fque inteitiyum —Idem renunp^ iia-^ turae opus, et rerum ipsauatura," The world, aa<} that which by another name is called the heaven^ by whose circumgyration all things are governed . ought to be believed to be a Numen, eternal, ipir inense, such as was never made, and shall Bever be destroyed.—Where, by the way, it may be again observed, that those Atheists, who denied ^God, according to the true notion of him, as a conscious, understanding being, presidirig ovfer t/>ej whole world, did notwithstanding look upon either the^ world itself, or else a f mere senseless • plastic nature jait,.as a kiad of Numen or*